

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for automatically switching lighting equipment comprising:
 - a sensor element for detecting at least infrared radiation; and
 - a filter element adapted such that substantially only infrared radiation is detectable by the sensor element.
2. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the device is for automatically switching lighting equipment for a motor vehicle.
3. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the sensor element emits a signal, and further comprising a control device including an element for switching the lighting equipment as a function of the signal.
4. The device according to Claim 2, wherein the filter element is attachable to a glass pane of the motor vehicle.
5. The device according to Claim 1, further comprising a rain sensor including a light-conducting element, the light-conducting element being substantially only transparent with respect to infrared radiation and being used as a filter element.
6. The device according to Claim 5, further comprising a layer that is substantially only transparent with respect to infrared radiation, the layer being situated on at least a part of a surface of the light-conducting element.
7. The device according to Claim 6, wherein the layer is elastic.

8. The device according to Claim 6, wherein the layer is adhesive.
9. The device according to Claim 1, wherein the filter element is integrated into the sensor element.